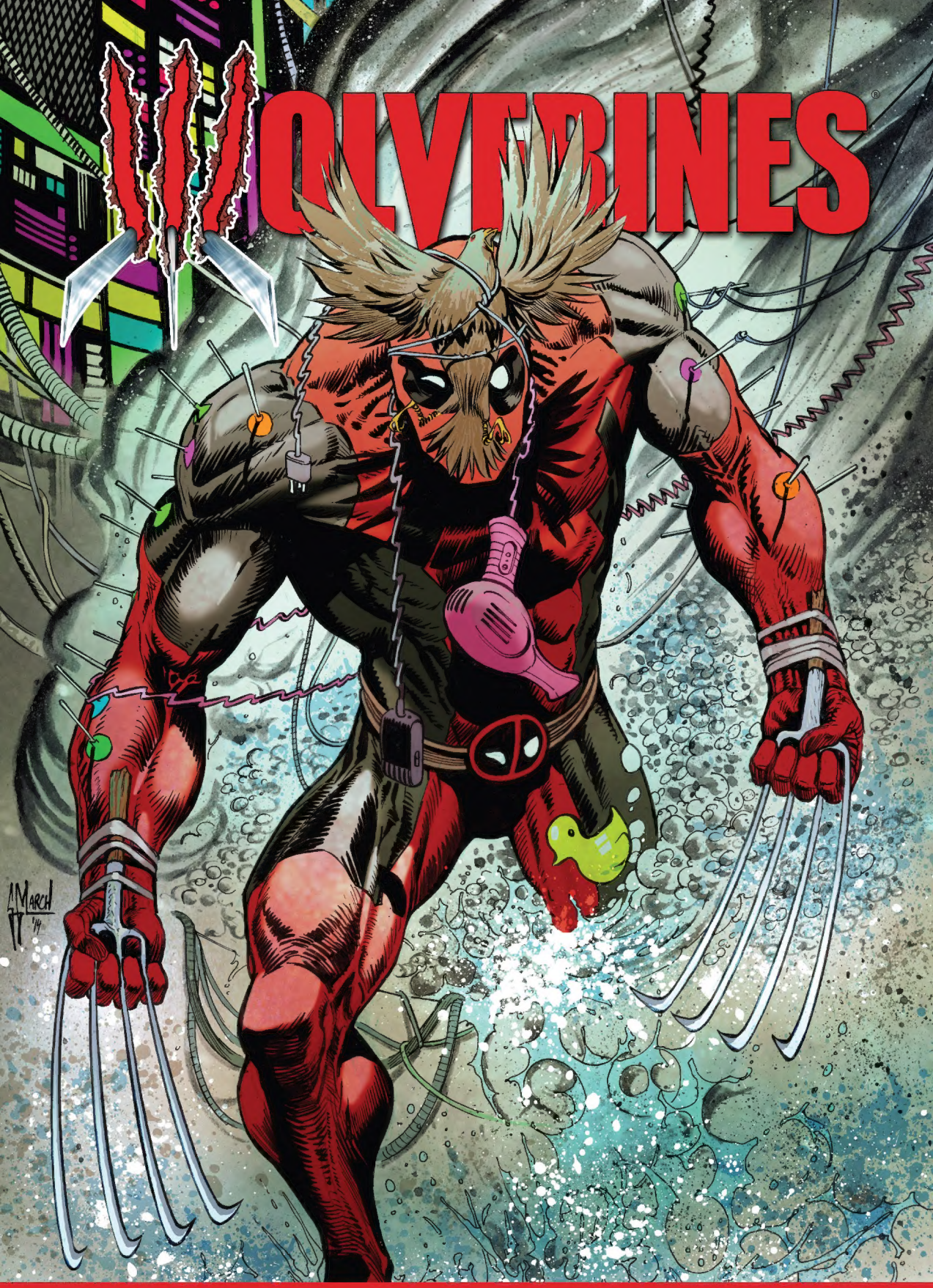


MARVEL

SOULE
MASTERS
MAJOR

013

THE WOLVERINE IS DEAD. HIS LEGACY REMAINS.

LOGAN MET HIS END WHILE DESTROYING A REVAMPED VERSION OF THE WEAPON X PROJECT LOCATED IN A FACILITY KNOWN AS PARADISE.

LOGAN COULD NOT ESCAPE, BUT OTHERS DID--FIVE TEST SUBJECTS, ALL GRANTED STRANGE NEW POWERS. NONE WERE EVER INTENDED TO SURVIVE OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM, AND ALL HAVE BEEN INFUSED WITH A TICKING CLOCK IN THEIR DNA THAT WILL KILL THEM UNLESS IT CAN BE DEACTIVATED.

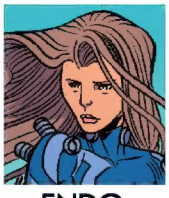
THESE LOST WEAPONS KIDNAPPED A GROUP OF FIVE OF WOLVERINE'S DEADLIEST ASSOCIATES IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR HEALING FACTORS MIGHT HOLD THE ANSWER TO SAVING THE TEST SUBJECTS' LIVES. THE REFUGEES FROM PARADISE HOLD SIGNIFICANT LEVERAGE OVER THE FIVE KILLERS--SECRET "CONTROL WORDS" THAT CAN MANIPULATE, SEDATE OR EVEN KILL EACH OF THEM.

FANTOMELLE AND CULPEPPER--TWO PARADISE REFUGEES--HAVE BECOME ESTABLISHED DEALERS FOR STOLEN SUPER-HERO MEMORABILIA, AND THEIR MOST RECENT CLIENT SEEMS VERY INTERESTED IN ANYTHING WOLVERINE-RELATED. AFTER ALL, WITH WOLVERINE DEAD, A POWER VACUUM HAS BEEN CREATED--ONE THAT CAN ONLY BE FILLED BY SOMEONE WITH A VERY SPECIAL SET OF SKILLS...

PARADISE

SHOGUN

NEURO

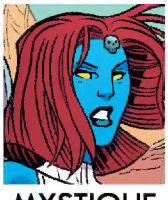

ENDO

SKEL

JUNK

FANTOMELLE

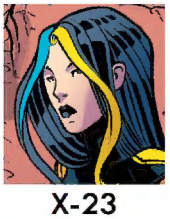
THE WOLVERINES


MYSTIQUE

SABRETOOTH

LADY DEATHSTRIKE

DAKEN


X-23

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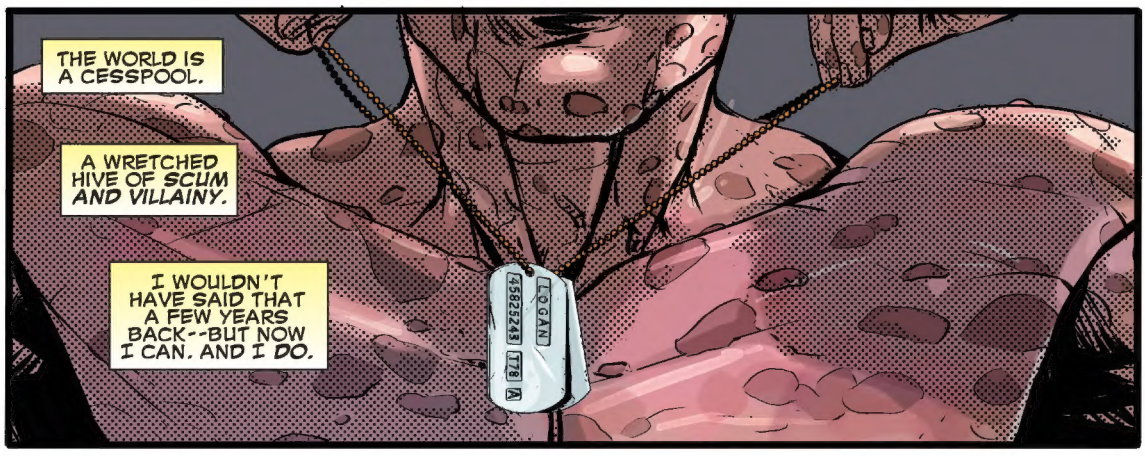
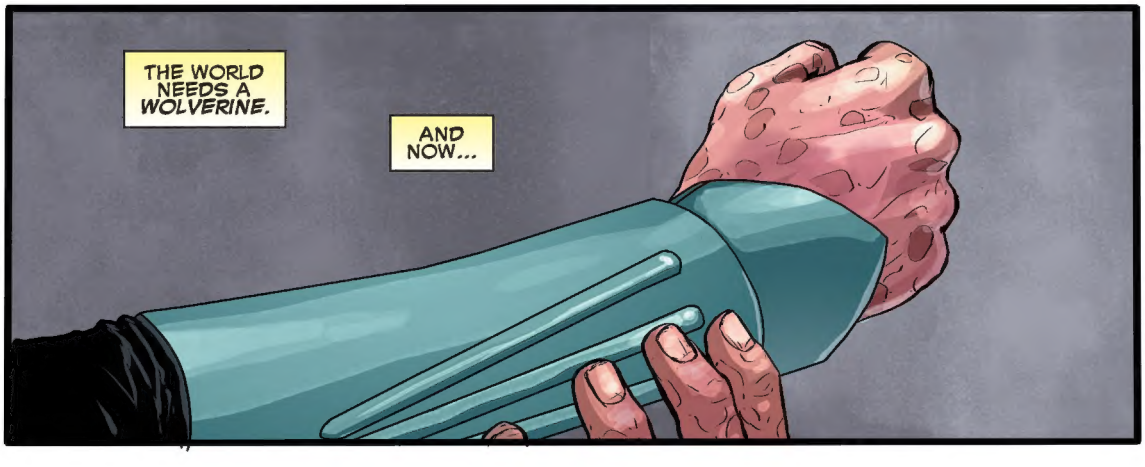

THE WORLD IS A CESSPOOL.
A WRETCHED HIVE OF SCUM AND VILLAINY.
I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT A FEW YEARS BACK--BUT NOW I CAN. AND I DO.
LOGAN
45825243
178
A

THE WORLD NEEDS A HERO TO SAVE IT FROM ITSELF. A PARTICULAR KIND OF HERO.
ONE WHO CAN FIGHT. ONE WHO CAN--WHEN NECESSARY--KILL.

A HERO WHO CAN BOUNCE BACK FROM EVERY HIT. ONE WHO CAN HEAL.
A CANADIAN.
GOD, THEY'RE AWESOME.

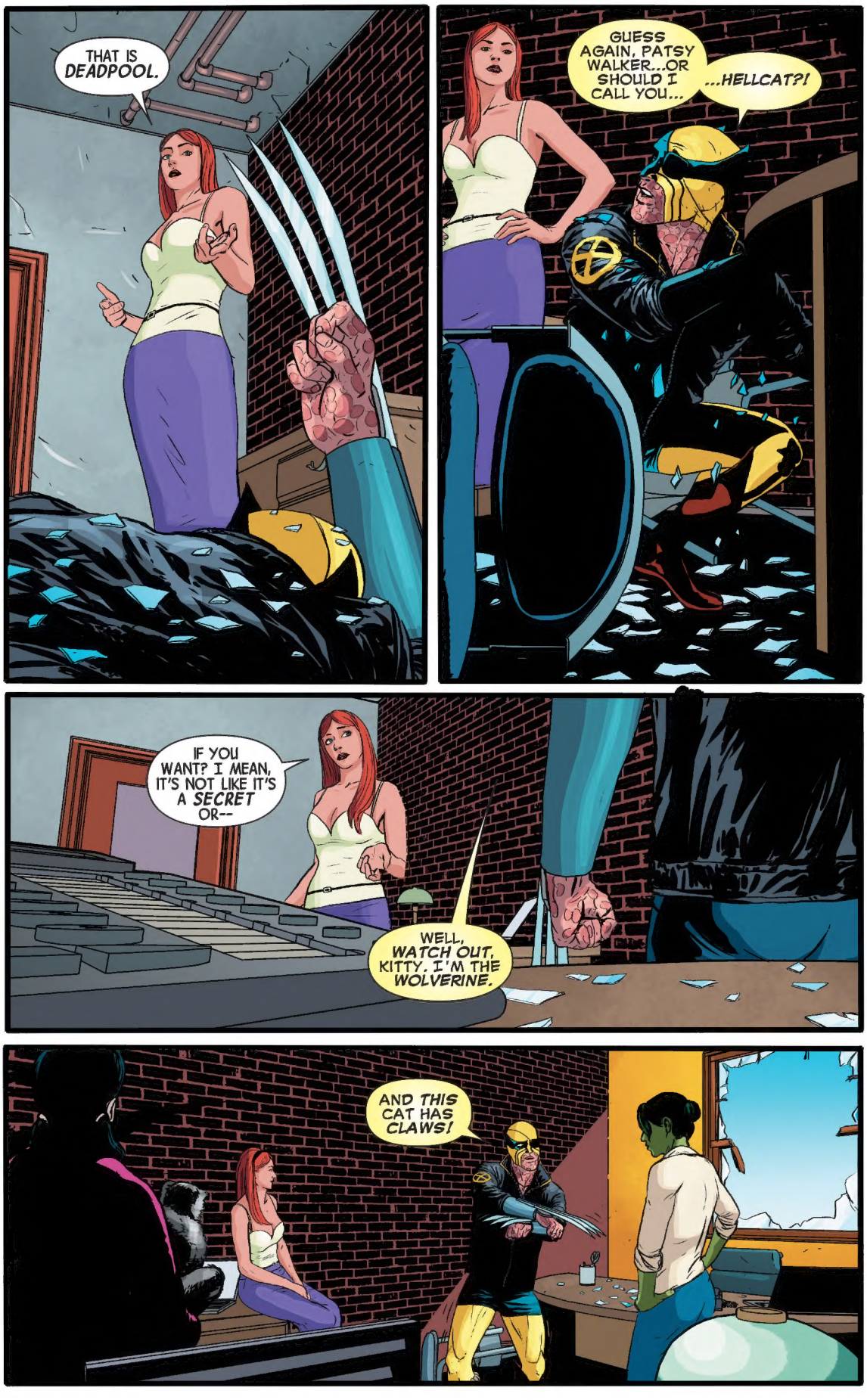

THE WORLD NEEDS A WOLVERINE.
AND NOW...

...IT'S GOT ONE.
SNIKT
SNIKT

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.
WHY ARE WE BACK HERE, FANTOMELLE? THIS IS MYSTIQUE'S SHIP. THE CHANGELING.
DAKEN, SABRETOOTH, DEATHSTRIKE...THEY'RE ALL PROBABLY STILL WITH HER. THESE PEOPLE ARE KILLERS. WE NEED TO BE DONE WITH THEM.
I KNOW, CULPEPPER. THIS WILL BE QUICK. I PROMISE.
DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WOLVERINE COSTUME WE STOLE BUT DIDN'T SELL TO DEADPOOL?
MY, MY, AREN'T WE PERCEPTIVE?
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WANTED ALL OF THAT, ANYWAY?
"YOU KNOW, 'PEP..."
UH...
TKINS!
HMM.
First appearance of Wolve
Gaggle Search
Punk?
CAREFUL... CAREFUL...
"...PERHAPS WE'LL NEVER TRULY KNOW."
"OR CARE."
"OR CARE."

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.
LAW OFFICES OF JENNIFER WALTERS, ESQ.
THE SHE-HULK.
HEY, ANGIE, CAN YOU GET ME THE ORIGINAL OF THE AMAQUELIN AFFIDAVIT?
RIGHT AWAY, MS. WALTERS.
HEY, JEN, YOU MIND IF I TAKE LUNCH? I DON'T HAVE MUCH ON MY PL--
SURE, PATSY. NO PROBLEM.
...
WHY DID YOU JUST STOP MID-SENTENCE LIKE THAT?
THAT'S PRETTY WEI--
LOOK OUT!

IS THAT...?
IT CAN'T BE. I'M PRETTY SURE HE DIED.
BUT THAT WAS MONTHS AGO--HE COULD EASILY BE BACK. EASILY.
NNNGH...
NO. IT'S NOT HIM. CAN'T YOU TELL?
CAN'T YOU SMELL IT? ONLY ONE PERSON SMELLS LIKE THAT.


THAT IS DEADPOOL.
GUESS AGAIN, PATSY WALKER...OR SHOULD I CALL YOU...
...HELLCAT?!
IF YOU WANT? I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A SECRET OR--
WELL, WATCH OUT, KITTY. I'M THE WOLVERINE.
AND THIS CAT HAS CLAWS!

WHAT THE HELL *IS* THIS, WADE?
PLEASE TELL ME YOU CAN PAY FOR THAT WINDOW.
WHATEVER, BUB. THE WOLVERINE DON'T PAY. HE MAKES *OTHER* PEOPLE PAY.
YOU ARE NOT WOLVERINE!
ALSO--A WOLVERINE IS NOT A CAT.
YES I AM! I SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON ALL THIS STUFF, AND--
SHKK

EUUGH.
NNF STILL--

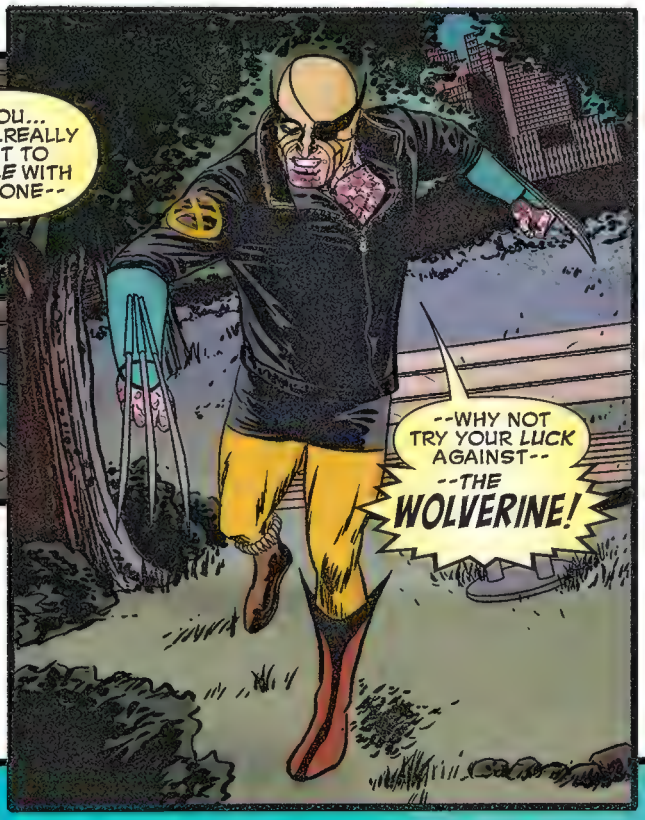
--GETTING *USED* TO THESE THINGS.
SPLTCH

DON'T... WORRY...FOLKS. THE WOLVERINE CAN HEAL FROM EVEN THE MOST *GRUESOME...* INJURY.
COME ON, WADE. WHAT IS THIS? DO YOU NEED LEGAL HELP?
I'LL BE GOOD IN A SEC. JUST... OOF...GIVE ME A SECOND HERE.

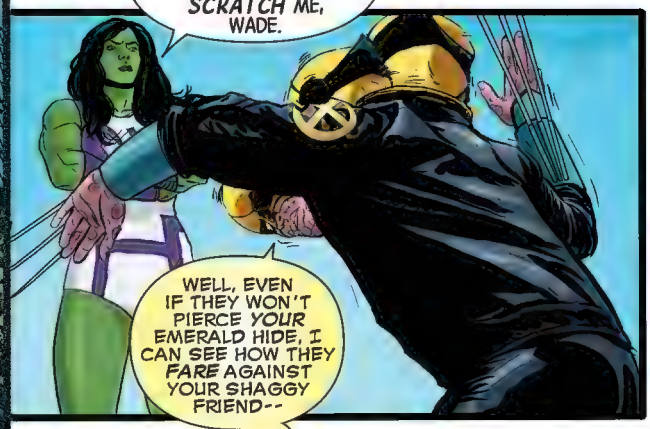
PROBABLY. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
THE FIRST THING WOLVERINE EVER DID WAS GET INTO A FIGHT WITH THE HULK. I LOOKED IT UP.
IF I'M GOING TO DO THIS, I WANT TO DO IT RIGHT.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
WHY DOES EVERYONE ALWAYS SAY THAT TO ME?
WELL, I'M SORRY, WADE, BUT I HAVE A BRIEF TO WRITE. YOU WANT TO FIGHT A HULK, WHY DON'T YOU GO FIND MY COUSIN?
BANNER? NO WAY. THAT GUY'S TOUGH AS HELL.
AND WHAT...I'M NOT?
UHH...
WHOA, WHOA, HOLD ON NOW--
YOU KNOW, WHY NOT?
WINDOW'S BUSTED ANYWAY.

THWAM

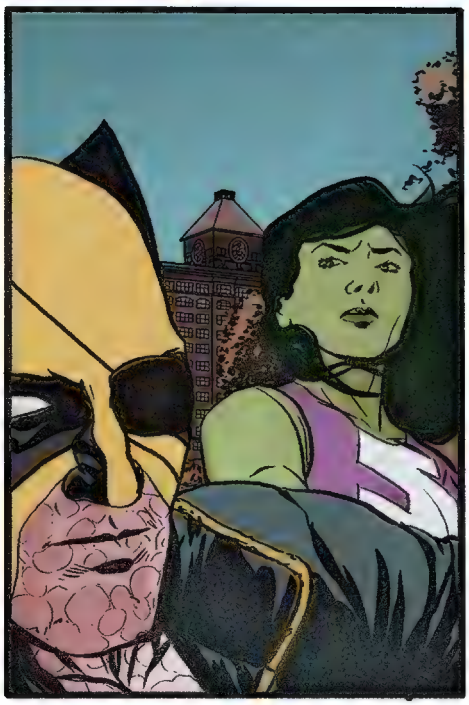
ALL... RIGHT... LADY.
IF YOU... NNGH...REALLY WANT TO TANGLE WITH SOMEONE--


--WHY NOT TRY YOUR LUCK AGAINST--
--THE WOLVERINE!

OH, LORD.



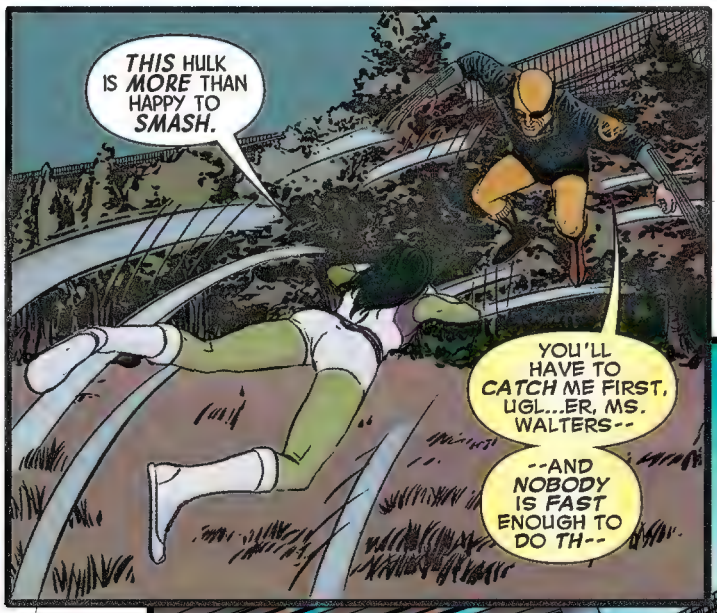
A STRANGE, UNEASY SILENCE SETTLES OVER THE SCENE THEN. THE THREAT OF THE WENDIGO IS ENDED, OR SO IT SEEMS--

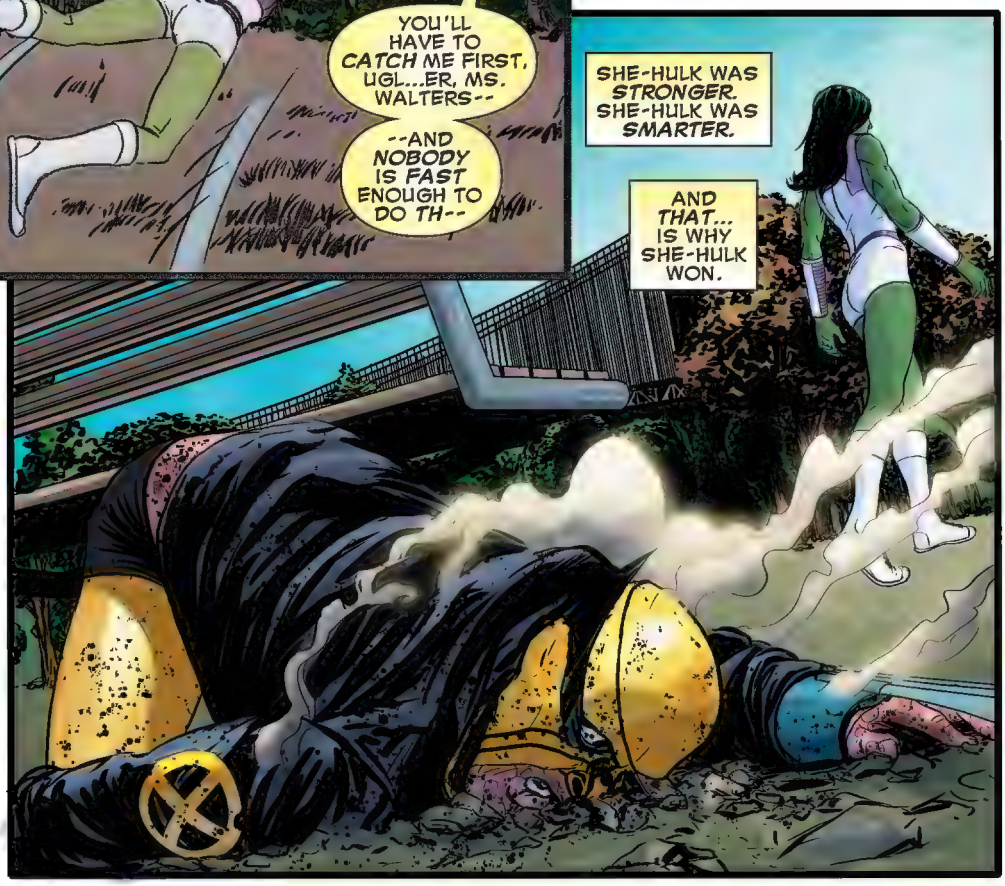


--AND THE HULK PEERS AT HIS--ER, HER PINT-SIZED COMPANION IN QUIET CONFUSION. SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO THE WOLVERINE NOW THAT THE BATTLE IS DONE--

--DOES NOT KNOW HOW SHE SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS SOMBER LITTLE MAN.

WADE, I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR...ISSUES...SO I WAS WILLING TO GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.
BUT GREENSKIN? GREENSKIN?
THAT I DID NOT LIKE. YOU WANT TO FIGHT A HULK, PAL? FINE.

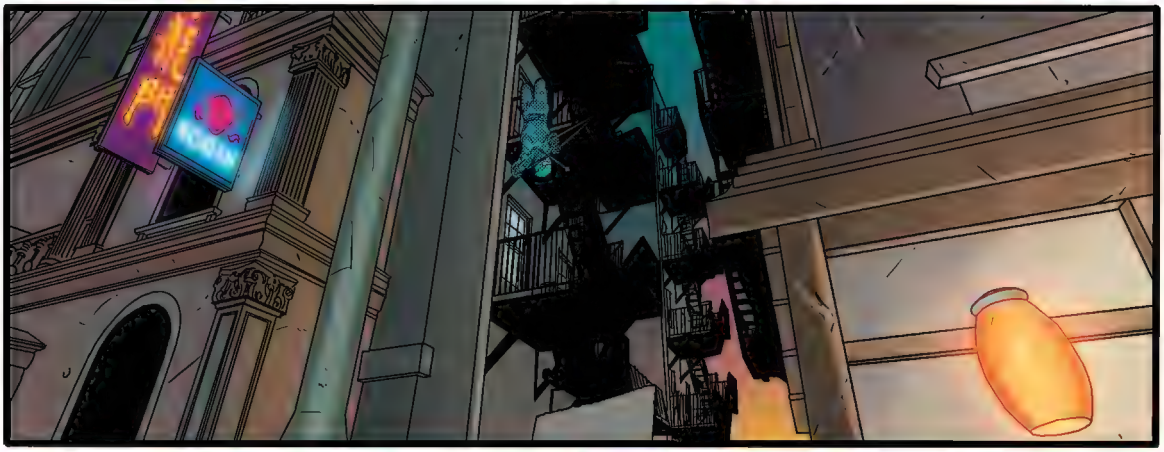

THIS HULK IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO SMASH.
YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST, UGL...ER, MS. WALTERS--
--AND NOBODY IS FAST ENOUGH TO DO TH--


SHE-HULK WAS STRONGER. SHE-HULK WAS SMARTER.
AND THAT... IS WHY SHE-HULK WON.

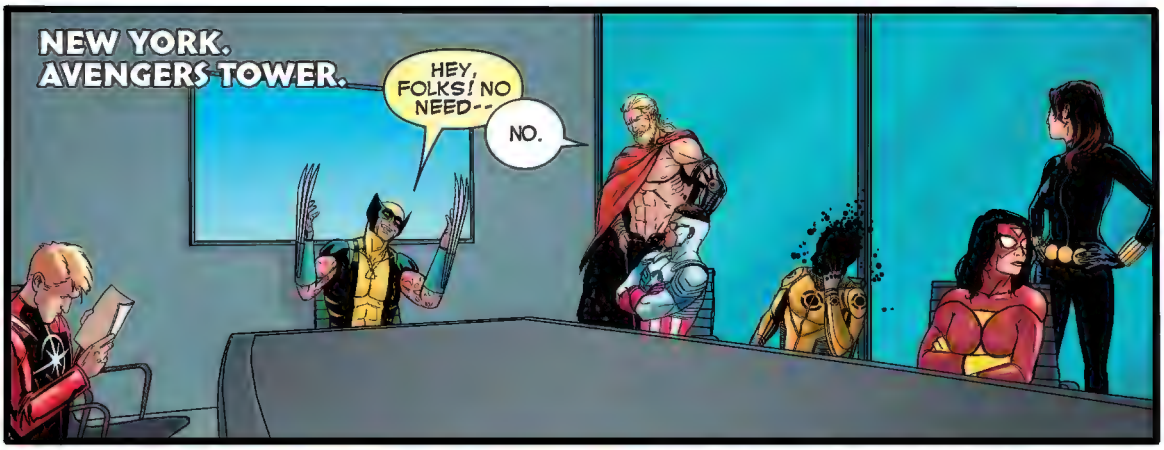
TOKYO.
<EXCUSE ME, GOOD SIR--MIGHT YOU BE ABLE TO POINT ME IN THE DIRECTION OF SOME NINJAS?>*
<WHY... WHY DO YOU WANT TO FIND NINJAS?>
<IT'S A TROPE. CAN YOU HELP? I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE.>
<AH...NINJAS ARE VERY GOOD AT HIDING. THAT'S SORT OF THEIR WHOLE...>
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

SSSK
HMM...

...HMM...



...CLEVER GIRL.


NEW YORK.
AVENGERS TOWER.
HEY, FOLKS! NO NEED--
NO.

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.
--TO WORRY.
YOU'VE GOT A--
NEIN.

THE HELICARRIER.
S.H.I.E.L.D. MOBILE HEADQUARTERS.
--WOLVERINE ON THE ROSTER AGAIN!
DON'T THINK SO.

CANADA.
MAISON ALPHA.
EH. SORRY.
SERIOUSLY?

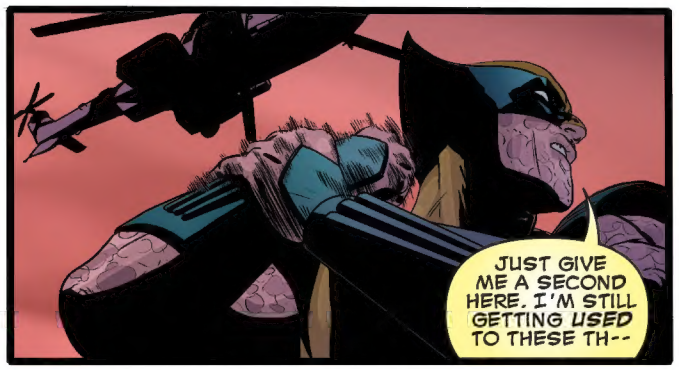
WHY?
WHHHHYYYY DOO YOUU HATE MEEEE?!
I'VE GOT A THEORY.
?!
STEALING IS WRONG.
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

I'M THE DOGTAGGER.
AND THOSE...
...BELONG TO ME.
WHATEVER, MAN. I BOUGHT THESE. PAID FOR THEM FAIR AND SQUARE.
AFTER THEY WERE STOLEN FROM ME.
AND I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOUR WORD ON THAT? SORRY, CHUBS. I'M DOING SOMETHING HERE, AND THESE DOGTAGS ARE PART OF IT.
HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT ALL OF THESE?
I DUNNO. ETSY?
NO.
THEY WERE GIFTS. EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM.
FROM LOGAN, AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF OTHER SOLDIERS. GOOD PEOPLE.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO FOR A SOLDIER TO GIVE YOU THEIR DOGTAGS? WELL, NOTHING SMALL, I'LL TELL YOU THAT.
AND THE THING ABOUT WARRIORS LIKE THAT...IF THEY THINK THEY OWE YOU...THEN WHEN YOU NEED 'EM...
...WHEN YOU CALL...

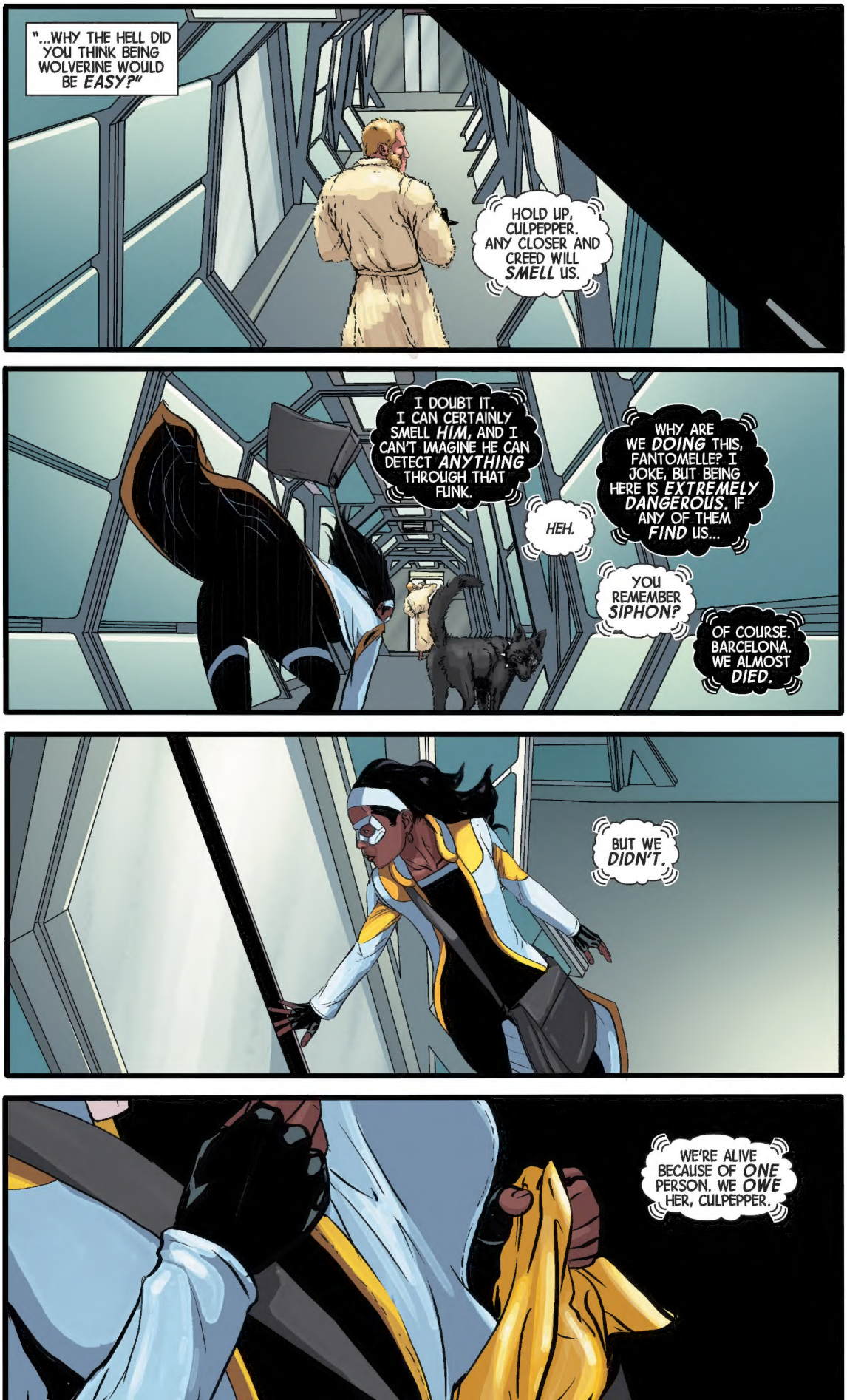
...THEY SHOW UP.

THIS IS *PERFECT*.

NOW, IF I WERE STILL *DEADPOOL*, I COULD TAKE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU. I THINK WE *ALL* KNOW THAT.



SPLUUTCH
SNKTPLCH
NNNNGH...
WOLVERINE... WAS ON...EVERY TEAM...I'M JUST... LIKE HIM...
...EVERYONE NEEDED HIM... THOUGHT THEY'D NEED A REPLACEMENT... THOUGHT THEY'D NEED ME...
...THIS WAS... SUPPOSED TO BE... MY CHANCE...
...WHY IS IT...SO HARD?
YOU OBVIOUSLY DID YOUR HOMEWORK WITH THIS WHOLE THING.
YOU KNOW WHO LOGAN WAS. HIS HISTORY.
SO LET ME ASK YOU...


"...WHY THE HELL DID YOU THINK BEING WOLVERINE WOULD BE EASY?"
HOLD UP, CULPEPPER. ANY CLOSER AND CREED WILL SMELL US.
I DOUBT IT. I CAN CERTAINLY SMELL HIM, AND I CAN'T IMAGINE HE CAN DETECT ANYTHING THROUGH THAT FUNK.
HEH.
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS, FANTOMELLE? I JOKE, BUT BEING HERE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. IF ANY OF THEM FIND US...
YOU REMEMBER SIPHON?
OF COURSE, BARCELONA. WE ALMOST DIED.
BUT WE DIDN'T.
WE'RE ALIVE BECAUSE OF ONE PERSON. WE OWE HER, CULPEPPER.

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO PAY HER BACK.
NEXT:
DAKEN UNLEASHED!